

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

**GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE**  
**AND**  
**REPORT FORMAT AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS**

**WILDLAND FIRE AND FIRE PROTECTION**



**LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

**Department of Planning and Land Use**  
**Department of Public Works**

**March 19, 2007**

## APPROVAL

I hereby certify that these **Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Wildland Fire and Fire Protection** are a part of the County of San Diego, Land Use and Environment Group's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Technical Report Format and Content Requirements and were considered by the Director of Planning and Land Use, in coordination with the Director of Public Works on the 19th day of March, 2007.



GARY PRYOR  
Director of Planning and Land Use



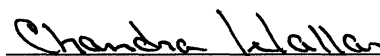
JOHN SNYDER  
Director of Public Works



Attest: ERIC GIBSON  
Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use

I hereby certify that these **Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Wildland Fire and Fire Protection** are a part of the County of San Diego, Land Use and Environment Group's Guidelines for Determining Significance and Technical Report Format and Content Requirements and have hereby been approved by the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) of the Land Use and Environment Group on the 19th day of March, 2007. The Director of Planning and Land Use is authorized to approve revisions to these Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for Wildland Fire and Fire Protection, except any revisions to the Guidelines for Determining Significance presented in Chapter 4.0 must be approved by the DCAO.

Approved, March 19, 2007



CHANDRA WALLAR  
Deputy CAO

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

**REPORT FORMAT AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS**

**WILDLAND FIRE AND FIRE PROTECTION**



**LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

**Department of Planning and Land Use**  
**Department of Public Works**

**March 19, 2007**

## **PURPOSE**

The ultimate goal of this document is to help in the preparation of useful, organized, consistent, and legally adequate Fire Protection Plan (FPP) in a timely and cost efficient manner. These guidelines apply to maps, spreadsheets and reports completed for all privately initiated discretionary projects reviewed by the Department of Planning and Land Use. These guidelines are designed to:

- Ensure the quality, accuracy and completeness of reports and to aid in staff's ability to review reports/assessments in a consistent manner
- Provide enough information to make appropriate planning decisions and to make determinations regarding conformance with applicable regulations
- Increase the efficiency of the environmental review process and to avoid unnecessary time delays

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	<u>General Issues for Writing a Fire Protection Plans.....</u>	1
1.2	<u>General Guidance and Key Compliance Points for Preparing a Fire Protection Plan .....</u>	2
<b>2.0</b>	<b>REPORT FORMATS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	<u>Fire Protection Plan - Full Report Outline.....</u>	4
2.2	<u>Fire Behavior Model.....</u>	10
2.3	<u>Fire Protection Plan – Letter Report Outline .....</u>	16

## TABLES

Table 1	BEHAVE Plus 3.0.1 Worst case sustained winds (10 minute average and peak) Fuel Model 1 at 50% slope .....	13
Table 2	BEHAVE Plus 3.0.1 Worst case sustained winds (10 minute average and peak) Fuel Model 4 at 50% slope .....	14
Table 3	BEHAVE Plus 3.0.1 Worst case sustained winds (10 minute average and peak) Fuel Model 10* at 50% slope .....	15

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Fire Protection Plan (FPP) shall follow the formats and guidance in this document. The overall length of the FPP and the amount of information to include will vary depending on the size and scope of the project, the combustible vegetation threat, and the unique topographical/geographical conditions of the site. Following the submittal of a discretionary project, the County's Scoping Letter may require that one or more of the following be submitted:

- Fire Protection Plan (Full Report)  
Required, pursuant to Article 86 of the California Fire Code, for larger projects or where sites have topographical, geographical, and/or combustible vegetation conditions that require detailed review and analysis.
- Fire Fuel Assessment (Fire Behavior Model)  
Required in conjunction with a Fire Protection Plan (Full Report) for larger projects and/or projects with high fuel loads and/or steep topography.
- Fire Protection Plan (Letter Report)  
Can be authorized by the County for projects that are located within the State Responsibility Areas and limited to infill projects with virtually no wildland exposure in the immediate vicinity. The Letter Report fulfills Article 86 requirements and is intended to be prepared by the project applicant or the applicant's representative. If upon review of the completed Letter Report it is determined that code issues are unresolved or inadequately addressed, a Full Report will be required.

### 1.1 General Issues for Writing a Fire Protection Plan

#### Contents

- The overall requirement and listing of general contents of an FPP are outlined under Article 86 of the State Fire Code.

#### Format

- Unless an exception is granted by the County, every draft FPP shall have the components as described in this Report Format and Content Requirements document.
- **DOCUMENTS THAT DO NOT CONTAIN ALL OF THE MANDATORY SECTIONS DESCRIBED IN THIS DOCUMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS COMPLETE BY COUNTY STAFF UNLESS AN EXCEPTION IS GIVEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE (DPLU).**

## Electronic Format

- Any draft text submitted electronically to the County for comment and review shall be formatted in Microsoft Word (2003 version or later). Staff may also request draft text to be submitted in PDF files. The electronic submission of draft text should be placed on a CD.

## Document Length

- The length of the draft FPP must be kept to the absolute minimum. The document shall be only as long as required to accurately convey the pertinent fire code issues and to contain the level of analysis required to legally comply with the CEQA. Extraneous and "filler" material must always be omitted from the FPP.

## Editorial Matters

- The draft FPP must be properly edited for correct format, spelling, grammar, page numbering, internal consistency and other editorial matters. The draft FPP must be prepared in a clear format, written in clear language for review and understanding by decision-makers and the public (§15140). Complex and extremely analytical materials must be summarized and simplified, with the details and harder to comprehend materials placed in the technical appendices.
- The draft FPP must be written in a factual and objective manner. The document must provide a good faith effort of full disclosure.
- An FPP that attempts to "bias" the document in favor of, or against the project is unacceptable. **COUNTY STAFF WILL REJECT THE DRAFT FPP IF PRELIMINARY REVIEW REVEALS NUMEROUS EDITORIAL AND/OR FACTUAL ERRORS OR OBVIOUS SLANT.**
- The draft FPP shall cite all documents used in its preparation including, where possible, the page and section number of any relevant codes or regulations. Other documents may be incorporated by reference, provided that the referenced document is summarized in the draft FPP and is made available for public inspection at a public place identified in the draft FPP, including a County office.

### 1.2 General Guidance and Key Compliance Points for Preparing a Fire Protection Plan

- Include only information that is directly pertinent to the FPP. Do not include extraneous, surplus, and anecdotal information.
- Instead of referring to "County Policy ...," specify whether the cited document is an official Board of Supervisors Policy, a Departmental Policy, or an informal policy or practice.

- Maintain consistent terminology. For example, do not refer to “Fire Fuel Assessment” in one section of the report and “Fire Model” in another.
- Present discussion and analysis with a tone that is professional, academic and impartial, rather than argumentative or project advocacy.
- Where other documents are incorporated by reference, explain the purpose for doing so and briefly describe or summarize the part or parts incorporated. Such reference should be placed in the applicable narrative sections.
- Provide factual SUPPORT and RATIONALE for all conclusions stated.
- Check the accuracy of all factual statements. For example, to state that a County regulation sets forth a particular requirement, if in fact it does not, is unacceptable.
- With the exception of the FPP – Letter Report, reports should be technical in nature.
- Reports should be concise and written in a professional manner suitable for peer review. Staff may reject reports based on quality if the report is written in such a manner that a timely and accurate review cannot be completed.
- Attached plot plans and maps must be to standard engineering scale and contain a north arrow and both number and bar scales. When maps are reduced, they are to be scalable by using a standard engineering scale.
- Draft copies of the report must have all changes made in response to staff comments in strikeout/underline form. Final copies of the report must be clean, with all editing marks removed.
- The Draft Fire Protection Plan will be reviewed for technical accuracy and completeness by a County Fire Code Specialist and the serving fire district’s Fire Marshal, if appropriate. The plan is considered draft until County staff determines the report to be complete.

## 2.0 REPORT FORMATS

### 2.1 Fire Protection Plan – Full Report Outline

#### BINDER COVER & COVER PAGE

The Cover Page of the FPP Full Report shall include the following information:

- Project common name
- Project applications numbers. Must include all associated discretionary permit numbers (TMXX-XXX, ZAPXX-XXX) and the environmental log number (Log No. XX-XX-XXX)
- Date of the original report, followed by the date(s) of all iterations
- Principal author's name, firm name and address
- Signature of principal author
- Project applicants name and address
- A statement that reads: *"Prepared for the County of San Diego"*
- Color photo of the project site

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS AND HEADINGS

The table of contents must follow the order and format outlined in this document. Page numbers should be assigned when possible. Titles of each attachment/appendix should be listed in the order in which they are found in the document. The Table of Contents must be formatted in the following manner:

**CHAPTER I.                    CHAPTERS SHALL BE SPECIFIED BY NUMBER AND SHALL BE PRESENTED IN BOLD AND IN ALL CAPS**

**I.I        First level subchapters shall be specified by number and shall be presented in upper and lower case, bold, and underlined**

**I.I.I      Second level subchapters shall be specified by number and shall be presented in upper and lower case, and bold.**

***I.I.I.I Third level subchapters shall be specified by number and shall be presented in upper and lower case, italics, and bold.***

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Executive Summary is to provide a quick reference for the public and decision-makers. Therefore, the language should be less technical than that used in the remainder of the document and should be no more than one page in length. The Executive Summary should include a brief summary of the project, the topographic/geographic and combustible vegetation conditions/challenges of the site and surrounding areas, existing fire related services, potential project impacts/issues and proposed mitigation. No new information should be provided in the summary that is not further explained elsewhere in the document.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Every Fire Protection Plan shall include the following introductory language:

This Fire Protection Plan (FPP) has been prepared for the (***insert common name of the project here***). The purpose of the FPP is to assess the potential impacts resulting from wildland fire hazards and identify the measures necessary to adequately mitigate those impacts. As part of the assessment, the plan has considered the property location, topography, geology, combustible vegetation (fuel types), climatic conditions, and fire history. The plan addresses water supply, access (including secondary/emergency access where applicable), structural ignitability and fire resistive building features, fire protection systems and equipment, impacts to existing emergency services, defensible space, and vegetation management. The plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more-at-risk communities and essential infrastructures. The plan recommends measures that property owners will take to reduce the probability of ignition of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

### **Project Location, Description and Environmental Setting**

#### **Project Location**

Discuss the project location in the local and regional context. Include a copy of the site plan/plot plan with topo overlay. In the event the subject is adjacent to steep topography or continuous fuels, additional mapping information may be required.

#### **Project Description**

Provide a very detailed description of the project, including all on-site and off-site components. An 8.5"x11" or 11"x17" copy of the proposed subdivision map/plot plan must be attached to the report as a numbered figure(s). The project description should be as detailed as possible, and at a minimum, include the following information (additional information may be required):

- Size of project site and area proposed for development.

- Purpose and scale of proposed uses associated with the project, such as residential development or recreational camping.
- Proposed structures (size, location, purpose, etc.).
- Location of all easements, including those for biological open space, steep slope easements, limited building zone easements, utilities and roads.
- Proposed or potential uses (e.g. clearing allowances) within open space.
- Off-site improvements, such as for roads or utility extensions, and brief analysis of existing off-site road conditions (e.g. width, grade, and paving).

### **Environmental Setting**

Describe the physical characteristics of the subject site and surrounding areas. At a minimum, the Environmental Setting section must include the following information:

- Dates of all site inspections/visits conducted
- Topography
- Vegetation (type and density)
- Fuel loads
- Fire history for the area
- Elevation
- Climate (general and seasonal)
- Public and private ownership of land in the vicinity, particularly any preserved lands adjacent or contiguous to the site
- A description of the existing land uses on site and on surrounding lands

## **II. GUIDELINES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Fire Protection Plan must evaluate the adverse environmental effects that a proposed project may have from wildland fire and properly mitigate those impacts to ensure that development projects do not unnecessarily expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Detailed guidelines for the determination of significance are identified in the Wildland Fire and Fire Protection Guidelines for Determining Significance. This section of the FPP must include the following Guidelines for the Determination of Significance:

- a. Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?
- b. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

- c. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection.
- d. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

## **ANALYSIS OF PROJECT EFFECTS**

The following significance guidelines will be considered substantial evidence that a significant wildland fire impact will occur from project implementation.

- *The project cannot demonstrate compliance, or offer Same Practical Effect, with applicable fire regulations, including but not limited to the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, County Fire Code, or the County Consolidated Fire Code*
- *A comprehensive Fire Protection Plan and the project is inconsistent with the its recommendations including fuel modification.*
- *The project cannot meet the emergency response objectives identified in the Public Facilities Element of the County General Plan or offer Same Practical Effect.*

This section must include an evaluation of project compliance with the Significance Guidelines listed in Section 2.0, above. The project must be analyzed in order to identify potential adverse impacts and to identify adequate mitigation measures for impacts resulting from wildland fire hazards. At a minimum, an analysis must include an evaluation of the following areas:

### **Adequate Emergency Services**

At a minimum, this section of the report must include the following discussions:

- Fire jurisdiction providing service, location of the nearest fire station obligated to respond, and their emergency responsibility
- Travel distance and travel time (include methodology for determination)
- Compliance/non-compliance with the Public Facilities Element of the San Diego County General Plan

**Access**

The analysis must include a description of the existing off-site and proposed on-site road network, including the following:

- Main/secondary access
- Road widths, angles of approaches/departures, obstructions (gates), fire lane marking and turnarounds, including analysis of off-site roads from a public-way and deviations from fire code.
- Road grades and surface improvements
- On-going road maintenance (identify entity responsible, private funding mechanism)
- Compliance/non-compliance with codes/regulations and significance standards

**Water**

For projects inside a Public or Private Water District,

- Provide a copy of the Service Availability Form along with a map that shows existing and proposed hydrant locations and spacing.
- Compliance/non-compliance with codes/regulations and significance standards.

For projects outside a Public or Private Water District,

- Compliance/non-compliance should be based on codes/regulations and significance standards.

**Ignition Resistant Construction and Fire Protection Systems**

County Fire and Building Codes specify construction standards for all structures located within the Urban-Interface areas. Provide a listing of the structures and their uses and clearly identify proposed deviations from applicable code sections of the Fire/Building Code. Identify deviations; DO NOT simply repeat the code.

**Defensible Space and Vegetation Management**

At a minimum, this section of the report must include the following discussions:

- Provide an overview of flammable vegetation within and adjacent to the project site (type and density)
- Identify Fuel Modification Zones (with dimensions) for building pads and access roads
- Include vegetation management (clearing) practices that will be implemented during the life of the project and the organization responsible for maintenance (the organization cannot be dissolved or unfunded)

- Summarize the results of the **Fire Fuel Assessment** (Fire Model), if applicable. The Fire Model must be included as an Appendix to the Fire Protection Plan
- Identify plant species that are proposed.
- Compliance/non-compliance with codes/regulations and significance standards.

### **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

This and other projects may have a cumulative impact on the ability to protect residents from wildfires. Over time, with this project and other development in the area, population in the rural areas will increase, which may increase the chances of a wildfire and increase the number of people and structures exposed to risk of loss, injury or death. Identify how the project and other proposed development in the area may contribute to this cumulative impact and what mitigation measures are being proposed to address this impact (e.g. project compliance with codes/standards).

### **MITIGATION MEASURES AND DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS**

Provide brief descriptions of proposed mitigation measures and design considerations. For each measure, state the impact being mitigated. Some mitigation measures MAY require additional details.

### **CONCLUSION**

For each significant impact, determine if the proposed mitigation measures have reduced the significance level to “less than significant” in accordance with the stated Significance Guidelines.

### **III. LIST OF PREPARERS AND PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED**

Provide a list of preparers, noting each person included on the County list of approved consultants. Note that the principal author must be on the list or the report will not be accepted.

### **IV. REFERENCES**

Include a listing of all references used in the report.

### **TECHNICAL APPENDICES**

The Table of Contents for the Appendices shall list each document attached to the report in the order in which they are included. The following documents must be included in the report, either in the text (if size is appropriate) or as an appendix:

- Site Map/Plot Plan with topography overlay
- Aerial photo of site and immediate vicinity – with property lines shown

- Photos of the site at ground level
- Fire Model (if required)
- Completed and signed form “DPLU #399F – Project Facility Availability Form for Fire”

## **2.2 Fire Behavior Model**

### **Summary Narrative**

As part of the Fire Behavior Model, a Summary Narrative must be included that provides an overview of the assumptions and findings. Please ensure that the narrative includes discussion of wind compression, spotting potential, fire location/direction, assessment of neighboring fuel beds, and topographical impacts. The language should be less technical than used in the Fire Model Report and should be no more than one page in length.

### **Use of Model Inputs - Caveat**

The Fire Model is a tool for fire authorities to estimate the behavior of fire that is moving towards a structure given certain assumptions. The Fire Model is only an estimate and not designed to replace eye-witness accounts or the experience of the local FAHJ who is familiar with wildland fire behavior.

The standard weather parameters that are discussed herein are designed to provide local FAHJ and fire consultants with a generally accepted set of model inputs to ensure overall fire modeling consistency for certain fuel types. The inputs are not stagnant and will constantly be revised and amended as additional information becomes available and modeling software changes. The County will post changes to these standard weather parameters on their website as they occur. Further, prior to finalizing modeling inputs, fire consultants must contact the local FAHJ to confirm that the model inputs proposed are reasonably accurate for the area being considered.

Please note that BehavePlus is not the only recognized fire model that is available; it is identified in this report only because it is a model currently most used by fire consultants. While the three fuel models that are listed as a comparison of fire behavior values under BehavePlus, other recognized models may be used. Use of these alternative models will be accepted so long as the consultant provides documentation that supports and justifies the assumptions that are used.

### **Model Inputs – Historical Background**

The requirement to submit a Fire Protection Plan for development in wildland areas has demonstrated a need for a generally accepted set of weather parameters for extreme fire conditions during summer time and Santa Ana fire weather patterns.

Analysis of 44 years of weather data (1961-2005) from the USDA Forest Service’s Weather Information Management System (WIMS) provides a sampling of weather patterns across San Diego County. The County is divided into five climate zones from the coast to the desert. (Climates of San Diego County, Agricultural Relationships, University of California, Agricultural Extension Service, and U.S. Weather Bureau.)

Daily afternoon weather observations were manually taken at selected fire stations across the county between 1961 and the early 1990's. Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) have replaced manual observations beginning in 1992. <http://famweb.nwcg.gov/weatherfirecd/>

Fire Family Plus software (USDA Forest Service) was used to summarize and analyze historical daily fire weather observations and to compute fire danger indices based on the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS).

Weather data from April 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> was chosen to represent the general limits to fire season. Fires have occurred between January 1<sup>st</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup> but while dangerous fire weather conditions occur during this period, they typically are not as severe as September and October weather conditions. Including winter weather records would dilute the data and add numerous winter storm events that require manual interpretation. Summer fire conditions were derived from records beginning on June 15<sup>th</sup> and ending September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Maximum wind speed data was checked for reasonableness by comparing speed with surrounding stations. Winds associated with winter storms were identified by cross checking with precipitation and relative humidity observations and then excluded. Santa Ana wind season is assumed to start on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Wind speed is measured at 20 feet above the ground and averaged for at least 10 minutes.

Maximum wind speed was calculated by taking the difference between the maximum recorded wind speed and the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile wind speed, adding it to the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile wind, adding 10 percent for a safety margin, and rounding the answer up. This had the effect of throwing out the outliers while including the highest reasonable winds. A table showing days with winds over the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile is included for each zone. Peak wind for each zone is the highest recorded wind by a RAWS during the Cedar fire (October 26, 2003)

The program for calculating fire behavior and spread requires temperature and relative humidity ranges as inputs. Temperature ranges of 90°-109°F and relative humidities of 5%-9% are reasonable for most areas of the county under Santa Ana conditions.

The Burning Index graph is included for reference. It represents relative difficulty of control of a wildfire and is calculated from temperature, wind, relative humidity, fuel (vegetation) moisture and wind.

Actual weather records may be used in lieu of these if they can be demonstrated to be representative of the actual site, recorded by a recognized system, and represent at least five years of data.

Please note that BehavePlus is not the only recognized fire model available, it just so happens to be the model most used by fire consultants. While these three fuel models are listed as a comparison of fire behavior values under BehavePlus, there may be

other nationally recognized fire behavior models available today or in the future that may be used. Use of these alternative models will be accepted so long as the consultant provides documentation that supports and justifies the assumptions that are used.

**Table 1**  
**BEHAVE Plus 3.0.1**  
**Worst case sustained winds (10 minute average and peak) Fuel Model 1 at 50% slope**

Zone	Period	Temperature	Relative Humidity	Sustained Wind Speed	Burning Index (99%)	Rate of Spread Feet/min	Flame length
<b>Maritime</b>	Summer	70-89°F	30-34%	17 mph	41	300	8
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	18 mph	64	470	10
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	22 mph	-	550	11
<b>Coastal</b>	Summer	90-109°F	10-14%	19 mph	57	430	9
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	0-4%	21 mph	112	600	12
	Peak	90-109°F	0-4%	26 mph	-	730	13
<b>Transitional</b>	Summer	90-109°F	10-14%	19 mph	119	430	9
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	28 mph	145	730	13
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	41 mph	-	730	13
<b>Interior</b>	Summer	90-109°F	5-9%	18 mph	153	470	10
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	24 mph	168	730	13
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	56 mph	-	730	13
<b>Desert</b>	Summer	90-109°F	5-9%	18 mph	153	470	10
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	24 mph	168	730	13
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	56 mph	-	730	13

**Table 2**  
**BEHAVE Plus 3.0.1**  
**Worst case sustained winds (10 minute average and peak) Fuel Model 4 at 50% slope**

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Temperature</b>	<b>Relative Humidity</b>	<b>Sustained Wind Speed</b>	<b>Burning Index (99%)</b>	<b>Rate of Spread Feet/min</b>	<b>Flame length</b>
<b>Maritime</b>	Summer	70-89°F	30-34%	17 mph	41	480	47
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	18 mph	64	620	56
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	22 mph	-	700	60
<b>Coastal</b>	Summer	90-109°F	10-14%	19 mph	57	989	50
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	0-4%	21 mph	112	740	61
	Peak	90-109°F	0-4%	26 mph	-	870	65
<b>Transitional</b>	Summer	90-109°F	10-14%	19 mph	119	615	54
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	28 mph	145	1100	73
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	41 mph	-	1600	87
<b>Interior</b>	Summer	90-109°F	5-9%	18 mph	153	620	56
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	24 mph	168	870	66
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	56 mph	-	2400	105
<b>Desert Chaparral</b>	Summer	90-109°F	5-9%	18 mph	153	620	56
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	24 mph	168	870	66
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	56 mph	-	2400	105

**Table 3**  
**BEHAVE Plus 3.0.1**  
**Worst case sustained winds (10 minute average and peak) Fuel Model 10\* at 50% slope**

Zone	Period	Temperature	Relative Humidity	Sustained Wind Speed	Burning Index (99%)	Rate of Spread Feet/min*	Flame length*
<b>Maritime</b>	Summer	70-89°F	30-34%	17 mph	41	-	-
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	18 mph	64	-	-
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	22 mph	-	-	-
<b>Coastal</b>	Summer	90-109°F	10-14%	19 mph	57	-	-
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	0-4%	21 mph	112	-	-
	Peak	90-109°F	0-4%	26 mph	-	-	-
<b>Transitional</b>	Summer	90-109°F	10-14%	19 mph	119	-	-
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	28 mph	145	-	-
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	41 mph	-	-	-
<b>Interior</b>	Summer	90-109°F	5-9%	18 mph	153	30	10
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	24 mph	168	40	11
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	56 mph	-	100	17
<b>Desert</b>	Summer	90-109°F	5-9%	18 mph	153	-	-
	Santa Ana	90-109°F	5-9%	24 mph	168	-	-
	Peak	90-109°F	5-9%	56 mph	-	-	-

\* Surface Fire Only. Behave does not model crown fires in timber fuel types.

## 2.3 Fire Protection Plan – Letter Report Outline

The Fire Protection Plan (FPP) – Letter Report is provided to assist project applicants who are processing minor projects that have little to no anticipated risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Discretionary permits that may qualify for a FPP – Letter Report include projects that are located within the State Responsibility Areas and are considered to be “infill” projects with virtually no wildland exposure in the immediate vicinity. It is intended that the FPP Letter Report be prepared by the applicant or the applicant’s representative.

***If, upon review of the completed Letter Report, it is determined that code issues are unresolved or inadequately addressed, or the project cannot comply with required conditions that are specified in the “Project Exposure to Wildland Fires” section below, the project does not qualify for a FPP – Letter Report and a FPP – Full Report will be required.***

The FPP – Letter Report shall follow the format that follows. Guidance on how to complete certain sections of the report is shown in *(italics)*. Questions on how to complete the form can be directed to the DPLU Fire Service Section at (858) 694-2960.

*(Date)*

County of San Diego  
Department of Planning and Land Use  
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B  
San Diego, CA 92123

*(Local Fire Agency/District Having Jurisdiction)*  
*(Address)*  
*(City, State, Zip)*

SUBJECT: FIRE PROTECTION PLAN – LETTER REPORT  
*(Project Common Name)*  
*(Project Application Number – e.g. TPM XX-XXXX)*  
*(Assessor Parcel Numbers)*

This Fire Protection Plan (FPP) – Letter Report is being submitted as an evaluation, pursuant to Article 86 of the California Fire Code, of the adverse environmental effects that a proposed project may have from wildland fire and mitigation of those impacts to ensure that the above referenced project does not unnecessarily expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

*(Briefly describe the project being proposed)*

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1. **Location:** *(what community is the project located (e.g. Fallbrook) and describe the character of the area that surrounds the subject property – how is it currently developed)*
2. **Topography:** *(generally identify the terrain of the site and adjacent properties (e.g. land is generally flat immediately off Access Street for 100 yards followed by rolling hills. Unusually high steep terrain can be found in the northwestern corner of the site and beyond )*
3. **Geology:** *(describe what existing/proposed roads will be used to access the property and their current condition. How will the area be evacuated in the event of a wildfire?)*
4. **Flammable Vegetation:** *(discuss the type and density of vegetation – this information is typically available in the project Biology Report. If a Biology Report is not required for your project, generally describe the types of plants that are found on the property and the density of vegetation.)*
5. **Climate:** *(identify general climate and seasonal events)*

## PROJECT EXPOSURE TO WILDLAND FIRES

### **1. Water Supply**

*(Describe how water is going to be supplied to the project. NOTE: If the project is outside the boundaries of a water district, include the following language in this section of the Letter Report: "All proposed structures shall have a water tank, with size, location and fire department connection (FDC) consistence with the County Consolidated Fire Code." If the project is inside the boundaries of a water district, you must attach a copy of the Service Availability Form for water to this Letter Report. Furthermore, include the following language in this section of the Letter Report: "Hydrants shall be located along fire access roadways as determined by the Fire Marshal to meet operational needs, at intersections, at cul de sacs, and at intervals pursuant to the County Consolidated Fire Code."*

### **2. Fire Access Roads**

#### Location

*(Describe the location of all entrance roads and the number of parcels that will access each road, include development pads and driveways)*

#### Deadends

*(Describe the length of all on-site roads. NOTE: Dead end driveways/roadways cannot exceed 150 feet in length without approved turnarounds).*

#### Width:

*(Describe the width of all access roads. NOTE: All fire access roads including driveways must be improved to a minimum 16' width all-weather surface suitable for travel by 50,000 lb. fire apparatus. Fire access roads serving more than two single-family dwellings shall be minimum 24' all-weather surface suitable for travel by 50,000 lb. fire apparatus.*

#### Grade:

*(Describe the maximum grade in percent for the roads and driveways. NOTE: Grades greater than 15% are not permitted without mitigation)*

#### Surface:

*(Describe the surface improvements for all roads and driveways).*

**3. Building Construction:**

*(The Report must make the following statement: "All structures shall comply with the ignition resistive construction requirements of the County Building Code.")*

**4. Fire Protection Systems:**

*(The Report must make the following statement: "All habitable structures and attached garages shall have residential fire sprinklers per County Consolidated Fire Code requirements.")*

**5. Defensible Space:**

*(The Report must make the following statement: "A minimum 100 foot Fuel Management Zone will be established and maintained around all structures over 250 square feet in size. No off-site clearing is required.")*

**6. Vegetation Management:**

*(The Report must make the following statement: "Prescribed Defensible Open Space will be maintained on at least an annual basis or more often as needed by the property owners. Planting used will be from an approved fire resistance planting materials list that is maintained by County of San Diego.")*

**7. Fire Behavior Computer Modeling:**

Computer Fire Behavior Model is not required for this project per County Fire Marshal *(Note: Contact the Fire Authority Having Jurisdiction to confirm).*

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Prepared By (Signature)	Date	Printed Name	Title
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Property Owner (Signature)	Date	Printed Name
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